



# Crime Lab News

Volume 1, Issue 3

Fall 2017

## Upcoming Training Opportunities

ASCL is creating outreach and on-going training opportunities for Law Enforcement Agencies and Court Officials. This training will take you through a few case scenarios to emphasize our current capabilities, best samples for testing, how to package evidence, and understanding the results.

**December 7, 2017**

8:00am-12:00pm

(tours given afterwards)  
Arkansas State Crime Lab  
Little Rock, AR

Registration link located on the last page of newsletter.

**CODIS Training**

**December 14, 2017**

8:30am-12:00pm

Arkansas State Crime Lab  
Little Rock, AR

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## A Note from Our Director

As we all know, the nation is facing an opioid crisis, and Arkansas is not immune. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, about 11.5 million Americans age 12 and older misused prescription pain medicine in 2016 and about 948,000 Americans of age 12 and up used heroin in 2016. In order to help educate and combat this growing problem, laboratory staff from the Drug and Toxicology Sections partnered with the FBI, Arkansas Department of Education, and State and Federal Law Enforcement agencies on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Schools all across Arkansas viewed the video "Chasing the Dragon." The film deals with opioid addiction and the negative consequences associated with it. It is intended to deter young adults from experimenting with drugs, help high school students understand opioid addiction, and demonstrate the strong grip it has on its users. I am proud of the staff members that were available to answer questions that these students might have regarding this epidemic we are all facing.

*Samuel B. Channell III*

## Section Focus—Digital Evidence

The Digital Evidence section is tasked with examining computer evidence, mobile devices, and any digital media for information or data pertinent to the investigation of a crime. This may include the recovery of deleted or damaged files as well as restoring entire partitions on a hard drive.

### MOBILE DEVICES

Examples of mobile devices include flip phones, smart phones, tablets, GPS devices, and generally anything that contains Android, iOS, or Windows Mobile operating systems. During analysis, an acquisition is completed on device SIM/USIM card, the device itself, and any contained storage cards. A logical, file system and physical acquisition are obtained when possible. In many cases, any security can be bypassed and obtained. Upon completion of examination, a Forensic Cell Phone Report CD will be created that contains any recovered data as well as details regarding the device.

Types of data that may be recovered and documented from mobile devices are:

- Call logs
- Contact names and numbers
- SMS
- Deleted SMS
- MMS
- Web History
- Voicemail
- Sound recordings
- Pictures
- Videos
- Email
- Chats and messages from applications (Facebook, Hangouts, etc.)
- Geolocation
- Wireless network configurations
- Installed app data

It is important to keep a mobile device from entering the screen lock mode even if it is unlocked at the time of seizure.

## Section Focus—Digital Evidence

### COMPUTER EVIDENCE

Computer evidence may include:

- Desktop computers
- Laptop computers
- Cellular phones
- MP3 devices
- Digital cameras and camcorders
- Personal digital assistant devices (PDAs)
- Any storage device that may hold digital media, including thumb drives or SD cards



Digital analysis can be useful in a variety of case types, including child endangerment (pornography, abuse), sexual assault, drug cases, terroristic threatening, intrusion (hacking), and financial/white collar crimes. Once the evidence has been processed, the digital evidence analyst will prepare a detailed report of the analysis and any pertinent data recovered.

The digital evidence section is also available for technical advice and assistance in the seizing and preserving of evidence at the crime scene. It is strongly advised for enforcement officers to consult a forensic expert before attempting to access in any way a computer or device at the crime scene.

### The Safety Scoop

***This quarter's topic:***  
**FENTANYL**



- ✓ Fentanyl is 50 times more powerful than heroin!
- ✓ According to *The Washington Times*, the DEA warns that Fentanyl is so dangerous that officers can die by mishandling the drug.
- ✓ If you suspect that you are submitting a case containing fentanyl, **please let us know** so that we can take the necessary precautions.

### Current Turn Around Times

- Digital Evidence
  - Computers: 90 days
  - Mobile devices: 30 days
- Firearms
  - Comparisons: 6 months
  - NIBIN: 30 days
- Latent Prints: 30–60 days
- Drug Analysis: 6 months
- Toxicology: 30 days
- Physical Evidence—Trace
  - Arson: 60 days
  - All other: 6 months
- Physical Evidence—Serology
  - Homicide: 30 days
  - Sexual Assault: 30 days
  - Property/other: 7 months
- DNA
  - Homicide: 3 months
  - Sexual Assault: 6 months
  - Property/other: 10 months

## Case Management Guidelines

### TRACE EVIDENCE—PRIMER GUNSHOT RESIDUE ANALYSIS

The analysis of primer gunshot residue can determine if particles characteristic to gunshot residue are present. However, the analysis of primer gunshot residue cannot determine who fired a weapon.

- Gunshot Residue Collection Kits and/or clothing from suspects may be tested for primer gunshot residue.
- When a Gunshot Residue Collection Kit (from hands) and clothing are submitted from the same subject, the gunshot residue kit shall be examined first. If the kit reveals particles characteristic of gunshot residue, then the clothing will not be examined.
- Shoes and inner garments will not routinely be tested.
- Clothing and Gunshot Residue Collection Kits collected from the recipient of a gunshot wound will not be examined for gunshot residue. The person is known to have been in a gunshot residue environment.
- Kits collected from a suspect who admits to firing a weapon or who is in possession of a firearm (on his/her person) will not be tested.
- Kits collected six or more hours after a shooting incident will not be tested.
- Swabs are not suitable for gunshot residue testing. Adhesive stubs must be used.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Gunshot Residue Collection Kits may be purchased at the Crime Lab Evidence Receiving Section for just \$6 per kit.

### **Remember:**

These are general guidelines.  
Call us if you have specific case needs!

## ATTENTION CASE COORDINATORS!

- ⇒ For subpoenas for crime lab personnel, please put the ASCL case number on the subpoena. This will help streamline our subpoena entry process and ensure that the correct analyst appears in court!
- ⇒ REMINDER: If you are an iResults user, you have access to our subpoena calendar. Please utilize this tool so that you can see if there are any conflicts for the date you need someone from the crime lab.

## Staffing Updates

Since the publication of our Summer 2017 newsletter, we have hired several new employees:

- Katelyn Parsons—Toxicologist
- Jared Bonvell—Firearms & Toolmark Examiner
- Paul Lawson—DNA Analyst
- Taylor Sharp—DNA Analyst
- John Threlkeld—Morgue Technician

# ARKANSAS STATE CRIME LABORATORY

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## Our Goals

- Complete cases in a timely manner to meet our customer's expectations
- Improve retention of Forensic Scientists
- Keep Law Enforcement and Coroners up to date on lab services
- Fund Lowell Satellite Lab
- Develop a plan for a new Forensic Science Facility



## Mission



To provide the highest quality scientific services to the criminal justice community and the State of Arkansas. This is accomplished through a team of skilled and dedicated employees utilized scientific equipment and appropriate validated methodologies. The laboratory strives to provide these services in a timeframe amenable to our customers.

Ensuring a safer Arkansas by providing the Criminal Justice System quality results within thirty days of submission which allows law enforcement the ability to respond quickly and effectively to criminal investigations.

## Vision



**Clear Communication:** Communicate often, promptly, professionally and in person when appropriate

**Quality:** Excellence, getting it right the first time, consistent performance, continuous improvement, taking pride in one's work

**Professional Development:** Growing and engaging employees through training, mentoring, and providing leadership opportunities

**Safety:** Providing a safe work environment and educating employees on safety practices

**Accountability:** Holding oneself and others responsible for productive and ethical behavior.

**Teamwork:** Having a common vision, ensuring cohesiveness, assisting one another, supporting other sections, putting others interests first and making decisions based on what is best for the laboratory

## ASCL Feedback and Further Training Opportunities

The Arkansas State Crime Laboratory Performance Survey is located on the Law Enforcement page (iResults) of the ASCL website. We welcome your feedback so that we can continue to improve and meet your needs.

### ***Your feedback from previous training opportunities***

*"I appreciate the timely manner in which I receive notifications that findings or reports are available via I-results."*

*"All staff, including the Chief Medical Examiner, Medical Examiners, Chief Forensic Investigator, all other Forensic Investigators, IT Mgr, and all other staff have always been extremely cooperative, helpful, and patient."*

Register for our next upcoming training opportunities at:

<https://goo.gl/yR9DDR>

Please contact Cindy Moran regarding any questions at:

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